

WORKING PAPER

APPENDIX B

MESSAGE TO THE RUSSIAN ARMY:

1. You of all people have the most legitimate and traditional interest in mother Russia. Your families work the Russian soil and preserve Russian traditions against encroachments of political officers who seek to stamp out these traditions. You have snatched your homeland from the jaws of defeat and given it victory. Political leadership, over-riding military counsel, brought Russia to the brink of defeat by the Germans and only the bravery and determination of the Russian armed forces turned this defeat into victory. Why, when you alone saved your homeland should political commissars once again lay their hands on you and try to run your affairs - political men who know nothing of armies, strategy or victory. Many of your great wartime leaders already have been sacrificed to the jealousy of political commissars - soldiers who risked their lives to save Russia while these same political leaders were fleeing Moscow in fear of the Germans. Your ranks are swelled by secret police who spy on you for their civilian masters at a time when you, above all others, have gloriously proved your loyalty to your homeland. Today they only watch you; tomorrow, when Stalin dies and one of these political commissars takes his place, he will fear you and try to destroy your traditions with his disastrous political control. The commissars fear you because your strong and because they know you have the loyalty and support of the people. When Stalin dies and the struggle for power begins, they will all woo you because they need your strength and popular support but they will still fear you and in the end, even if you

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help them secure power, they will force rigid control on you out of fear of your strength. You have made Russia great but this very achievement endangers you. Your prestige in Russia will not long be tolerated by a political commissar who insists on absolute power.

2. When Stalin dies the new dictator will increase oppression of the people to guard his power. His rivals in the praesidium will covet his power and he will suspect high and low alike of plotting with them for his overthrow. Your families at home will suffer and you will be expected to fight for this new regime which brings further suffering to your people. The people trust you to protect them from new oppressions. To betray this trust would be to disown your own families.

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